

## PRE

*The PRESENT.* An elliptical expression for the *present time*; the time now existing.

When he saw descend  
The son of God to judge them, terrify'd  
He fled; not hoping to escape, but shun  
The *present*; fearing guilty, what his wrath  
Might suddenly inflict. *Milton.*  
Men that set their hearts only upon the *present*, without  
looking forward into the end of things are struck at. *L'Estr.*  
Who, since their own short understandings reach  
No further than the *present*, think ev'n the wife,  
Speak what they think, and tell tales of themselves. *Rosve.*  
*At PRESENT.* [a *present*, Fr.] At the present time; now;  
elliptically, for the *present time*.  
The state is at *present* very sensible of the decay in their  
trade. *Addison.*

*PRESENT.* *n. f.* [*present*, Fr. from the verb.]  
1. A gift; a donative; something ceremoniously given.  
Plain Clarence!

I will send thy soul to heav'n,  
If heav'n will take the *present* at our hands. *Shakefp.*  
His dog to-morrow, by his master's command, he must  
carry for a *present* to his lady. *Shakefp.*  
He sent part of the rich spoil, with the admiral's ensign, as  
a *present* unto Solymán. *Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.*

Say heav'nly muse, shall not thy sacred vein  
Afford a *present* to the infant God?  
Hast thou no verse, no hymn, no solemn strain,  
To welcome him to this his new abode?  
They that are to love inclin'd,  
Sway'd by chance, not choice or art  
To the first that's fair or kind,  
Make a *present* of their heart. *Waller.*

Somewhat is sure design'd by fraud or force;  
Trust not their *present*s, nor admit the horse. *Dryden.*  
2. A letter or mandate exhibited.

Be it known to all men by these *present*s. *Shakefp.*  
*To PRESENT.* *v. a.* [*presento*, low Lat. *presenter*, Fr. in all  
the senses.]

1. To place in the presence of a superior.  
On to the sacred hill  
They led him high applauded, and *present*  
Before the seat supreme. *Milton's Par. Lost, b. vi.*

2. To exhibit to view or notice.  
He knows not what he says; and vain is it,  
That we *present* us to him. *Shakefp. King Lear.*

3. To offer; to exhibit.  
Thou therefore now advise,  
Or hear what to my mind first thoughts *present*. *Milton.*

Now ev'ry leaf, and ev'ry moving breath  
*Presents* a foe, and ev'ry toe a death. *Denham.*  
Lecturides's memory is ever ready to offer to his mind  
something out of other men's writings or conversations, and  
is *presenting* him with the thoughts of other persons perpetually.  
*Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*

4. To give formally and ceremoniously.  
Folks in mudwall tenement,  
Affording pepper-corn for rent,  
*Present* a turkey or a hen  
To those might better spare their ten. *Prior.*

5. To put into the hands of another.  
So ladies in romance assist their knight,  
*Present* the spear, and arm him for the fight. *Dryden.*

6. To favour with gifts. To *present*, in the sense of to give,  
has several structures: we say absolutely, to *present* a man, to  
give something to him. This is left in use. The common  
phrases are to *present* a gift to a man; or, to *present* the man  
with a gift.

Thou spendest thy time in waiting upon such a great one,  
and thy estate in *presenting* him; and, after all, half no other  
reward, but sometimes to be smiled upon, and always to be  
smiled at. *South's Sermons.*

He now *presents*, as ancient ladies do,  
That courted long, at length are forc'd to woo. *Dryden.*  
Octavia *presented* the poet, for his admirable elegy on her  
son Marcellus. *Dryden.*

Should I *present* thee with rare figur'd plate,  
O how thy rising heart would throb and beat. *Dryden.*

7. To prefer to ecclesiastical benefices.  
That he put these bishops in the places of the deceased by  
his own authority, is notoriously false; for the duke of Saxony  
always *presented*. *Atterbury.*

8. To offer openly.  
He was appointed admiral, and *presented* battle to the  
French navy, which they refused. *Hayward.*

9. To introduce by something exhibited to the view or notice.  
Not in use.  
Tell on, quoth she, the woful tragedy,  
The which these relics sad *present* unto. *Spenser.*

10. To lay before a court of judicature, as an object of en-  
quiry.  
The grand juries were practised effectually with to *present*  
the said pamphlet, with all aggravating epithets. *Swift.*

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